

# Art analysis

## Mary and Martha

### Introduction

#### **1. What does the study of this topic show us about God Himself?**

God's love reaches all continents.

God is peace. He wants us to spend times of quiet with Him.

#### **2. Which scripture passages illustrate this aspect of God?**

Luke 10:38-42 – The story of Mary and Martha

John 15:5 - I am the vine. (Stay focused on Jesus, and not distracted by a busy life.)

Luke 12:31- Seek first his kingdom.

Acts 12: 34 – God does not show favouritism.

Romans 1:20 – God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen.

#### **3. How does understanding God in this way change our lives, or make us more like Jesus?**

a) It is important to spend time with God. This will affect the way we live.

b) We do not stereotype people according to their culture, but understand that God looks upon the heart, and can reveal himself to anyone.

## Art Analysis Mary and Martha



Mary, Martha and Jesus are sharing in the home in Bethany.

## Activities

1. What is Martha doing that her sister is not engaged in? Why was there a dispute and bad feeling?
2. What country did this artwork come from? Give reasons for your answer.
3. What is unusual about perspective, colour and the key elements of this painting compared with traditional western art?
4. What information does the painting convey about culture? Is it modern or traditional? Give reasons for your answer.
5. Examine more art from this period and use the elements you identify here to design another New Testament scene that looks like a further painting in this series.
6. What do you think the effect is of having most of the art of the last two millennia representing a white western Jesus of Caucasian origin and other New Testament characters in the same way? How did Palestinian Jews look 2,000 years ago?
7. How do you think the artist heard about the story of Mary and Martha?
8. How does God regard people from non-Christian cultures?
9. What does Acts 12: 34 tell us about favouring one culture above another?
10. Does this mean that God doesn't care about which religion we follow? Give a reason.
11. Could a person come to know the true God without ever having heard about Jesus? Romans 1:20